(b) Estimates of employment & unemployment in the country are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey for which results are available pertains to the year 1999-2000. As per these surveys, unemployment rate among educated youth (Age Group 15-29 years) with technical education (those having additional diplomas or certificates in Agriculture, Engineering/ Technology, Medicine, crafts and other subjects) on usual status basis has marginally gone down from around 27.3% in 1993-94 to 23.7% in 1999-2000.

(c) With the economy expected to grow at around 8% per annum and the Government emphasis on development of infrastructure, better health services, emphasis to IT and communication sectors etc., substantial employment opportunities for engineers and medical graduates are likely to be created in the economy.

Launch of new service 'City Post'

*234. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to launch a new service "City Post" aimed at recapturing local market in urban centres;

(b) if so, the modalities worked out so far;

(c) the number of cities identified for this purpose; and

(d) the amount likely to be generated from this service during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Orders have been issued for introduction of "City Post" on an experimental basis in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, to develop a next-day-delivery service for local articles, with the facility of an electronic intimation of delivery.

(d) The amount likely to be generated from this experimental measure of "City Post" in Vijaywada during the current year (between introduction and 31.3.2006) is estimated to be Rs. 3 to 4 lakhs.